

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1144

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM MASS ET

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION

REF: STATE 240582

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS RE
PROPOSED DRAFT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TRANSMITTED REFTE):

A. WE SUGGEST REWORDING SECOND SENTENCE PARA 5 TO READ
"TARGETS OF THE REVOLUTION APPEAR TO BE THE ARISTOCRACY AND
OTHER ASSOCIATED WITH THE PREVIOUS FEUDAL REGIME, AND
RECENTLY, A CLANDESTINE POLITICAL GROUPING CALLED THE
ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP) WHICH APPEARS
TO DRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM STUDIENTS , SOME LABOR LEADERS AND
OTHER TRADITIONAL RADICAL DISSIDENTS.

B. WE SUGGEST CHANGEING FIRST SNETENCE PARA 6 AS
FOLLOWS: "THE PRESENT PROVISIONAL ... OTHER PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY AS WELL AS URBAN OPPOSITION FROM RADICALLY-MINDED
GROUPS SUCH AS SOME STUDNETS, LABOR LEADERS AND
TEACHERS, NOW INCLUDING THE EPRP."

C. WE SUGGEST REWORDING PENULTIMATE SENTENCE PARA
6 TO READ "THERE ARE REPORTEDLY TENSIONS AMONG COMPETING
GROUPS WITHIN THE PMG AS THE MILITARY LEADERS TRY TO
DIRECT NATIONAL AFFAIRS IN A SITUATION OF RAPID CHANGE."

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2. COMMENT:

A. PARA 14. EXCESSES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED IN ERITREA WITHOUT DOUBT BY BOTH SIDES AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE. IT IS NONETHELESS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAVE BEEN LESS FREQUENT OF LATE. EVEN FOREIGN PRESS HAS HAD, SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, LESS TO SAY ABOUT THEM IN RECENT MONTHS, EXCEPT WHEN SPECTER OF PEASANT MARCH LAST SPRING TOUCHED OFF NERVOUS SPECULATION OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

B. IN GENERAL, OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS THAT DEPT'S DRAFT DOES NOT INCLUDE SUFFICIENT PERSPECTIVE. WITHOUT WISHING TO CONDONE ETHIOPIAN VIOLATIONS IN ANY WAY, WE DO SUGGEST THAT THE REVOLUTION HAS HAD BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF HITHERTO UNPRIVILEGED ETHIOPIANS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN JUDGING OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE (SEE ADDIS 3287). WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTION ABOUT HOW DEPT MIGHT BUILD THIS INTO DRAFT, BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT DONE.

3. EMBASSY AGREES WITH REMAINDER OF TEXT.

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